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CHURCHILL WEDDING BY CANDLELIGHT

But The Organ Played!

London, Feb. 11.
Miss Mary Churchill, youngest daughter of the former Prime Minister, was married to-day at the height of Britain's power cut, with only four candles burning and no heat in the fashionable St. Margaret's Church, to Captain Christopher Soames of the Coldstream Guards.

At the last minute, enough electricity was supplied so that the bride could walk down the aisle to traditional organ music instead of to a piano as had been expected. Thousands of Londoners braved the biting wind and waited for hours outside the church for a glimpse of the bride and her famous father.

Mr Churchill was cheered lustily and about 100,000 people cheered which accentuated the silence that greeted the Prime Minister and Mrs. Atlee's arrival to attend the wedding, which was one of the highlights of London's social season.

Mr Churchill grinned broadly and raised his fingers in the Victory salute, after which he offered his hand to his daughter for the march to the altar.

COLD AND DARK

The church was cold and virtually pitch dark, except for four candles on the altar and a single light burning over the organ.

Masses of yellow daffodils and mimosa banded the front of the altar and the milk and sable coats of the guests—some of whom were wearing colourful Parasol plumes in their hats—gave a marked contrast to the thousands of spectators in shabby overcoats and sackcloth. Captain Soames, the bridegroom, is at present assistant military attaché at the British Embassy in Paris. He served in North Africa and fought in the battle of El Alamein.

The wedding climaxed a love-at-first-sight meeting in Paris. Within a month of their meeting last November, they were engaged.

A special force of 35 foot and five mounted constables were posted outside St. Margaret's in Westminster for the wedding, but they proved inadequate to hold back the crowd when the Churchill car, bearing the flag of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports, drove up.—United Press.

Fire Disaster: 36 Still Missing

Berlin, Feb. 11.
Eighty-six persons are still missing following the flash fire which gutted a Berlin night club on Saturday and workers are still sifting through the debris hunting for bodies.

Police headquarters earlier had listed 104 missing but later it reported that 18 of the number had turned up. Some who failed to report had been suffering from shock and others had been receiving treatment at private houses.

The bodies are so badly charred and in places that the first counts of 91 bodies recovered appeared to be an error.—United Press.

EDITORIAL

The Task Of Reafforestation

ONE of Hongkong's unhappiest and most unfortunate legacies of the war is deforestation. For years the authorities waged a struggle with illegal wood cutters, with enough success to provide the colony with belts of woodland and scrub capable of preventing soil erosion and silting, and at the same time adding to the natural beauty of the place. With the overrunning of the colony by the Japanese in 1941, the protection so vital to the perpetuation of the forests was lost and the Chinese, desperate for firewood, swooped down on the more accessible areas and denuded them of their trees. A very great deal of 60 years of patient work was ruined in a few months.

To-day, through the "Telegraph", it is officially disclosed that the Botanical and Forestry Department has started the big task of reafforestation, and the pronouncements of immediate and long term policies to give back to Hongkong its essential woodlands, are extremely encouraging. We must have a forest covering in water catchment areas if only to prevent large scale erosion; and there are other considerations, such as the danger of rapid and complete silting up of the reservoirs during the rainy season, and inevitable landslides which could, and probably would, cause damage to property and possibly mean loss of life.

The immediate plans for correcting the present serious situation are realistic and workmanlike. The decision to resume the pre-war system of protection of the forests is a little disheartening to know that we must wait another twelve months for full scale planting of seedlings, there is comfort in the knowledge that the Forestry Department is making the fullest use of its nurseries and is going ahead as fast as possible with the work. The Department expects to have 100,000 seedlings planted by the end of next spring and this will, undoubtedly, reduce the danger of erosion and silting in the catchment areas. Complete reafforestation is a long term job, but the energetic manner in which it is being tackled is commendable and reassuring.

REAFFORESTATION OF H. K. UNDER WAY

Immediate And Long Term Policies

TASK OF GREAT MAGNITUDE

The Botanical and Forestry Department has started its great task of reafforesting the colony which, to-day, is seriously threatened with soil erosion in some of the catchment areas. Seedlings from the government nurseries are being planted, but, said an official, replanting on a full scale will have to wait until the spring of next year.

The planting of seedlings from nurseries started this month and already about 5,000 trees have been planted, principally in the catchment areas. It is expected that by the end of next spring 100,000 trees will have been planted.

An official said that they had been very unlucky in losing so many Tristitia seedlings in the typhoon last year as this was one of the best types of trees for afforestation work. However, they had plenty of other seedlings to get along with.

He said that it would be five to 10 years before they developed into anything like full sized trees, or would have any value as timber.

Some idea of the magnitude of the work is indicated by an official revelation that from December 8 to 11, 1941, approximately one-half of the total growing stock of large pine trees between Beach Hill railway tunnel and Leichikok were felled.

By early January, 1942, all trees had completely disappeared from this area. After the surrender of Hongkong, for several months the Japanese authorities did nothing to prevent the cutting of firewood from the hillsides and in the area between Leichikok and Kwaikong, it was undoubtedly during this period that deforestation was at its height.

Later the Japanese authorities carried out systematic felling resulting in the removal of all trees of a size suitable for firewood from the area. The removal of such trees adversely affected the amenity of the locality.

IMMEDIATE POLICY

The official said that the immediate forest policy called for reafforestation, action for protection, thirdly re-establishment of nurseries and fourthly routine work, such as the planting and tending of roadside trees, undergrowth clearings, and so forth.

Reafforestation came under three headings: (a) areas which remain comparatively untouched and for which the protection of growing stock was the most important consideration; (b) areas from which all trees suitable for firewood have been removed leaving a fairly dense shrub covering. The quickest and most satisfactory way of obtaining exploitable timber from these areas is by allowing the natural succession of generations of vegetation to take its course. This may be helped to some extent by interplanting such trees as Schima, Tristitia and Machilus in groups; (c) areas from which all trees suitable for firewood have been removed, but which has little or no shrub layer, or from which shrub layer has been removed.

These last mentioned areas, said the official, are the ones which call for the most strenuous steps to be taken for reafforestation. In many such areas natural regeneration of pine has taken place in sufficient quantity to establish a closed forest canopy in due time, should it be afforded complete protection. In any case, such gaps as occur in those areas from failure of natural regeneration will be artificially filled.

In other areas little or no natural regeneration of pine has followed removal of the older trees and such areas will have to be artificially sown. Some of these areas, however, are more suitable for planting with broadleaved tree seedlings raised in a nursery and this is now being done as far as available nursery stocks permit.

Referring to protection, the official said that an efficient outpost scheme has been established for the protection of afforested areas. In the majority of cases, pill boxes have been used for housing foresters for this purpose and only such minor repairs as the installing of windows, doors and adequate washing and cooking facilities, will be necessary to make these into permanent outposts.

Dealing with the long term forest policy, the official said that every effort will be made to increase the undergrowth covering and tree growth in the protection forests on the steep hillsides and catchment areas.

This will be done by enforcing an efficient system of forest guards and by beating up the undergrowth with high forest trees wherever suitable. Such catchment areas which have no undergrowth will be planted with pine.

These protection areas must be fully dealt with before the afforestation of other areas is undertaken. Requisite attention will also be given to the planting of selected flowering trees where their amenity value is high.

Special efforts will be made to check the erosion of these hillsides which have become completely denuded of all vegetation. Fortunately, said the official, this has not become serious on any part of the island except on a small area around Tytan reservoir. On the mainland however, in the area between Leichikok and Kwaikong (on the Tsun Wan road) rather serious erosion is now taking place. Later, areas that were previously under forest will again be sown with pine, but the extent of these operations will have to depend largely on the possibility of protecting these areas from illegal tree cutting, as for the most part they are situated in the immediate vicinity of densely populated areas, such as Shaokwan and Shamshuipo.

NEW TERRITORIES

Afforestation in the New Territories has great possibilities, declared the official, and may well prove, even in a short period like 20 years, to be a real benefit to the colony.

Disclosing that a start was made in 1939 to afforest part of the Shing Mun catchment area, he said this area does not present such big problems as the catchment areas in Hongkong from the point of view of protection, owing to its relative remoteness. Moreover, the terrain is more gentle and broken topography does not make the necessity of preserving a forest cover as essential as for most other catchment areas; therefore, it forms an ideal choice for large scale forestry operations.

In 1939 a working plan was prepared for reafforestation in which it was proposed to set up an outstation and nursery with about 100 acres to provide the requisite seedling for planting up this very large area.

In 1945 inspection of plantations erected in this area in 1939 and 1940 showed that moderately satisfactory results had been achieved in spite of complete lack of tending during the war years. These same plantations were almost completely destroyed by wood cutters in the spring of 1946.

The official said that area offers the largest scope for afforestation by the government in the New Territories since all village rights were extinguished at the time of the construction of the reservoir.

NEW HEADQUARTERS

A site for the new headquarters of the Forestry Department has been tentatively selected near Tai Po Kau. This area in the past has been used for experimental work of various kinds and was well afforested up to 1943 when extensive felling was carried out.



Here is a scene that is typical in many parts of England to-day, where shoppers have to be served by candlelight owing to electricity cuts made necessary by the acute coal shortage. Britain's towns and villages are almost as gloomy to-day as they were during the wartime blackout.

Russia Changes Tune On German Treaty

London, Feb. 11.
M. Eydor Gusev, the Soviet delegate to the Deputies for the German peace treaty suddenly and unexpectedly announced to-night that the Soviet delegation had decided their proposals on procedure should be widened and in particular a wider view should be taken on the matter of consultation and information of the smaller Allied powers.

This question has so far been one of the main points at issue between the Russians and the other three of the Big Four delegations in planning for the preparation of the German treaty.

M. Gusev made his announcement at the very end of a long meeting in a chilly atmosphere created by Britain's industrial power cuts. He said the Soviet delegation had not yet crystallised the form which the widening should take but he said he hoped to submit a supplementary proposal to the original Soviet memorandum in the next day or two.

There would be particular reference to the Standing Committee at the forthcoming Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow for consultation and information of other Allied Governments.

The British delegate, Sir William Strang, who presided, reporting on the progress of the deputies' work, said he was very doubtful whether they would complete their work in time so far as the question of procedure is concerned.

He added that a lot would depend on how far M. Gusev's new proposals would go to meet the views on procedure of other delegations.

U.S. MEMORANDUM

The other main business of the deputies to-night was the discussion of the United States memorandum on procedure, which was submitted by Mr. Robert Murphy. This proposed that at the fresh meeting of the deputies to take place within four weeks of the Council of Foreign Ministers in Moscow, four standing sub-committees and about a dozen sub-sub-committees on which the smaller Allies would be represented, should be set up to join in the work of the deputies.

The Standing Committees would deal with the following subjects:

1. Political and constitutional structure of Germany with sub-committees on constitutional structure and democratisation.

2. Territorial adjustments and problems, with sub-committees on the eastern boundaries, the Netherlands territorial claims, Belgium and Luxembourg territorial claims, the Saar and Czechoslovak territorial claims.

3. The economic organisation of Germany and reparations with the sub-committees for economic organisation and control reparations and the standard of living, and the Ruhr.

4. Disarmament and demilitarisation, with sub-committees on the duration and strength of military occupation and on the United States draft disarmament and demilitarisation treaty.

The four standing committees would consist of one representative of each of the Big Four and four representatives nominated from among the smaller Allies by each of the Big Four deputies.

LIVELY DISCUSSION

The United States memorandum also contained a novel proposal which was subject to lively discussion to-night. This was that "competent German authorities and experts" and also, in the absence of a Central German

Britain Fights Coal Shortage And Snow

London, Feb. 12.
The British turned desperately to its army and navy yesterday for ships and men, flame-throwers and bulldozers to open coal supply lanes blocked by the worst winter storm in more than half a century.

Fighting a fuel and power famine that already has immobilised more than 4,000,000 workers, Prime Minister Atlee and his Cabinet reviewed the crisis at a special meeting yesterday.

Shortly afterwards the War Office and the Admiralty were issued stand-by orders to give whatever help possible.

All kinds of expedients were considered, including the use of flame-throwers to clear snow-clogged rail lines, employment of submarines to generate electric power for coastal towns, and use of radar to shepherd coal convoys through fog and ice.

Also considered by the Cabinet as a further coal conservation measure was the extension of daily domestic power cuts to all the Island except northern Scotland.

Warning of the possible extension was made officially at a Ministry of Fuel and Power press conference a few hours after the 10 Downing Street session.

Coal savings resulting from Monday's drastic power cuts, a Ministry spokesman reported, amounted to 22,500 tons, or about a third of normal consumption by generating stations.

"But," he added gloomily, "deliveries continue to be blocked by the weather."

"NOT SO GOOD"

He remarked the public co-operation in voluntarily halting power consumption for five hours daily was "not so good to-day as on Monday." In many areas it is technically impossible to cut domestic power users from lines which also serve essential industries.

"It is doubtful," announced Sir Guy Nott-Bower, Ministry Under-Secretary, "whether at the close of yesterday the stock positions of the power stations in the restricted areas was much improved. Outside the restricted areas, the stock position probably grew worse."

He said the Government was not considering any plan to buy United States coal to help tide the nation through the crisis.

Newspapers, only a few months ago granted increased supplies of newsprint, announced they will resort to reduced "war-time" size, beginning Wednesday and continuing until further notice.

Many suburban and main line trains were withdrawn to clear the lines for priority coal shipments and London transport considered further service reduction after a peak hour traffic drop of more than 100,000 on Tuesday.—Associated Press.

BIG BEN BLACKED OUT

London, Feb. 11.
The duel crisis became complete to-night—the lights on Big Ben's clock faces were blacked out for the first time since the end of the war.—United Press.

U.S. HELP UNLIKELY

Washington, Feb. 11.
Industry sources to-day said they doubted if the United States could send any speedy relief to Britain in the coal shortages of England and Wales.

They opined that lack of ships and England's unfavourable trading position would hamper large scale help despite the fact that the American soft coal production for the week ending February 1 set a 20-year peak with a total of 13,775,000 tons.—United Press.

Fire Brigade Says Goodbye To Some Old Friends

Once upon a time Hongkong could boast that it was the only city with fire engines driven by Rolls Royce motors. Now, all but one of these appliances, are offered for public auction next Friday. One is being retained to deal with small fires.

Asked why the Brigade was disposing of its Rolls Royce engines, Mr. McIntosh Smith, Chief Fire Officer, told the "Telegraph" to-day that they were actually replaced in 1941, but were kept for training the Auxiliary Fire Brigade and ARP personnel.

Mr. Smith disclosed that the Rolls Royce Dennis and Merryweather engines were replaced six years ago by four American La Franco appliances of the latest type. Experience had proved these American machines were highly efficient. They were each powered with a 704 hp motor with a pumping capacity of 1,500 gallons per minute as compared with the old type machines which have a capacity of 330 to 600 gallons a minute.

Referring to fire-fighting equipment, Mr. Smith said that each station has its own latest equipment for fighting oil fires.

He declared that the Hongkong Fire Brigade is an efficiently-run organisation with 14 modern appliances and a complement of 404 well-trained men.

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TEXAS

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A COLUMBIA PICTURE

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POCKET CARTOON



WILLIAM HICKEY GREAT GI GREETER

TOM LANCER, colonel of the U.S. First Division and first mayor of Aix-la-Chapelle, has sent a silver shield to London's accountant **FRED SMITH**.

It bears the names of four Americans and an inscription an ambassador could envy—that Fred Smith "did more to promote Anglo-American relations than anyone we know."

Before American troops came over in strength Mr. Churchill said he hoped they would get a warm welcome. Smith, heart-broken since invalidated out of the first war, took that personally.

As his home was his club, he persuaded members to give open house to American officers, making himself greeter.

In the first few days four turned up. They liked Smith and the news got around. He could talk; better still, he could listen, and he always had the odd bottle tucked away.

Names on the shield are those of the original quartet, first of the hundreds who call Fred friend.

IN London looking for rare violins and **REUB OLSEN**, round and twinkling, with **CARL BECKER**, Cassius-built, who has made more than 500 violins himself.

Their firm in Chicago is the oldest of its kind in America, their rooms at Grosvenor House are piled with fiddle-cases, but they have not found another Stradivarius.

Between them they know all that is to be known about 500 Strads, have just published a life-time's study. Yet almost every day back home someone brings in an old fiddle ("been in the family for years") and inside is a Stradivari label.

And always it is the facsimile once much used in cheap violins: it describes the type, not the maker.

Carl plays the cello "a little"—Reub sticks to bridge.

NOW this interests me a lot. Mrs. **MABEL J. KINGSBURY** of Worthing has been deaf for many years. She was thinking the other day what she would choose if given just one chance to hear again. She writes:—

"After careful consideration I decided I would like to hear a good tenor singing that beautiful hymn 'Lead Kindly Light.'"

What would you choose?

LET us hope that Mr. Justice **WROTESLEY** did not expect to be taken seriously when suggesting that a "married" or "single" entry on an identity card would help to reduce bigamy. A little faking is so easy, would stop no would-be bigamist.

Except for keeping uncivil bureaucrats in jobs, identity cards are valueless and overdue for the scrap-heap.

OLD BAILEY reporter **ERNE SPRING** and nine other Rover Scouts made solemn covenant on the hill at Kenil Rise that "whatever fortune, good or ill, befalls us we meet on the brow of the hill, 20 years hence."

That was at 7 p.m. on December 23, 1926. All ten were there again, eight with wives.

FROM the "Domestic Wanted" column of a Lincolnshire newspaper:—

Nanny, nine months, hornless, docile, from seven-pinner, £4.

NOW the private affairs of the Press are about to be investigated by a royal commission this column would like to say that it does not fear the strictest inquiries which may be considered in the public interest.

In fact, it has decided to save the royal commission a lot of trouble by making a few disclosures at once.

As royal commissions of inquiry are normally gluttons for detail, here are some which should satisfy the hungriest seeker after useless information.

Since the column's 'typewriter' seized up in 1942 it has been written by hand, in pencil on sheets of paper 6ins. by 10ins. The pencils are 2Bs, 7ins. long when new, hexagonal and about a 1/4in. in diameter.

The column doesn't know the circumference of the pencils because the column isn't sure that a hexagon can have a circumference. A circumference is a line that bounds a circle.

What's more, the column isn't sure about the diameter of a hexagon, either. Is it the line drawn between the apexes of two opposite triangles or the line drawn between any two opposite points dividing it in half?

As the column has forgotten all its Euclid except that "the angles at the base of an isosceles triangle are equal" and that "two parallel straight lines will never meet" (like Stalin and Truman) it would be grateful for any information from clever readers which would help the royal commission.

Measurement

THE desk on which the column is written is 44ins. wide, 33ins. deep and 30ins. high and is permanently covered by old newspapers, ash-trays, books, medicine bottles, cigarette ends, empty tea cups and bits of food.

The only space left permanently clear is a space 8ins. by 10ins. to accommodate the sheets of writing paper. In order to get the facts right a tape measure has been added to the general confusion.

The chair in which the column sits (or writhes, because it would rather be having a drink somewhere) is of the swivel, office type which squeaks at every movement. As the writing is almost continuous, so is the squeaking.

The late Sally the Cat once thought the column was young enough to keep white mice in its trouser pockets and made some embarrassing investigations.

Japan's Socialists Gaining Strength

By **RUSSELL BRINES**

The little man in Japan's cities may push the country sharply toward Socialism in a quest for middle politics.

When General MacArthur ordered the Government to hold a new general election within a few months, he recognised the growing reaction against the extreme conservatism of the last two Cabinets.

That feeling is most articulate in Tokyo, but it is reflected in key cities of central and southwestern Honshu. "The people here," said one Military Government official, are looking mainly for a middle ground. The Conservatives are too slow for them and the extreme Leftists too wild.

The little man is expected to turn in large numbers to the Social Democratic Party, now third in the polls. It does not offer him the moderation he wants, because it is divided into quarrelling Left and Right wings. But the Socialists are generally closer to the middle. Socialism itself will be less of an ideal than individual economic security which the little man is now seeking fruitlessly.

Many American military observers expect the Social Democrats to gain enough power in the next election at least to have a dominant voice in the new Cabinet. However, the rural areas probably will cling to the traditional Conservatism. They should give the Government parties—Liberal and Progressive—their major support.

Military Government officials expect the Communists either to lose influence in the balloting or to withdraw in favour of the Socialists, with whom they eventually hope to form a joint front. Osaka, for instance, elected two Communists to the current House of Representatives.

lives, but both are expected to be defeated. The Socialists clearly have indicated they intend to inaugurate Socialism as quickly as possible upon gaining power. However, this might not be with such thorough completeness as in Britain.—Associated Press.

According To Culbertson

(Copyright, 1947, by Ely Culbertson)

The slam contract in to-day's deal depended on so small a card as an aight spot—and, of course, on good play.

South, dealer.

North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 5 4 3
♥ 3 7 2
♦ K J 7
♣ Q J 5

WEST
♠ K J 10 8 6
♥ 10 8 4
♦ 5
♣ 8 6 5

EAST
♠ A K 5 5
♥ 4 3
♦ 10 7 4 2
♣ A Q 2

SOUTH
♠ A Q 2
♥ A Q 10 8 6 5
♦ A K 10
♣ A K 10

The bidding:
South: 1♣, 2♦, 3♥, 4♠, 5♠, 6♠, 7♠.
North: 1♠, 2♥, 3♦, 4♣, 5♣, 6♣, 7♣.

Although the contract was a trick high for the combined holdings of North and South, it is difficult to criticise any individual bid. Any way, South came through with flying colours.

West opened his top heart, which certainly seemed to be the safest lead from his hand. Dummy's Jack and King of hearts were played, and South ruffed. Right here, at the first trick, declarer was in possession of some highly interesting information. Obviously, the lead of the heart ten was a "top-card lead"—West scarcely would have opened away from an ace-ten. Thus, East was absolutely marked with the heart ace, and the burning question became: who had the heart eight?

With nothing to lose by the effort, declarer decided to play West for that important card. He went to dummy with a trump and led the heart queen through East, who of course covered with the ace. (Otherwise South would have discarded a spade then and there). South ruffed, returned to dummy with another trump, and ruffed the heart deuce. Now he cashed his three club tricks, ending in dummy, and hopefully led the heart seven. When East failed to cover with the eight—for the best possible reason! declarer knew he was home. He nonchalantly discarded his low spade, giving West the trick and waited for West's next play. It could only be a spade, of course, and this led came up to declarer's major tenace.

Sitting on the Fence

by **NATHANIEL GUBBINS**

If the royal commission finds that there is no point in writing a column mainly about nothing, this column will probably be the first to agree with it.

Motive?

If the royal commission asks this question, the answer is that there is no motive but greed.

The column does not believe in writing for anything but money, and gets as much as it possibly can.

What it believes may be rubbish. But that's not the point. It believes it.

So far as money is concerned, the column is like the girl in the song, "poor but honest," but, unlike the girl, has not succumbed to a rich man's whim. But in fairness to the rich man, it must be said that he never attempted seduction. Therefore the column may not be so virtuous after all.

The column is poor, not because it is badly paid; it is very well paid. But not so fantastically well paid as the gossips and know-alls make out.

It is poor because for many years more than half its income has gone directly to the Government.

It is also poor because it has spent the rest of its money on bad whisky, good women, and cigarettes. Apart from the good women, this means that most of its income has gone directly or indirectly to the Government.

Slightly Left

THE column's political views are Left, as observed by Sir David Maxwell Fyfe in the House of Commons.

But it is not extreme Left and it is not slavishly Left. It is as willing to offer criticism of the Left as it is to offer criticism of the Right.

It is Left mainly for two reasons. It believes in a fairer distribution of wealth and is certainly suffering for its beliefs. It does not believe in the future of the Conservative Party any more, but it believes in the future of hansom cabs.

It does not ask anybody to share its beliefs. It must confess that it doesn't care what any individual believes. Moreover it doesn't believe that its views, political or otherwise, have the slightest effect on the views of its readers.

It thinks that people's views are dictated either by their characters or the impact of experience on their consciences. Facts, not opinion, will awaken their consciences.

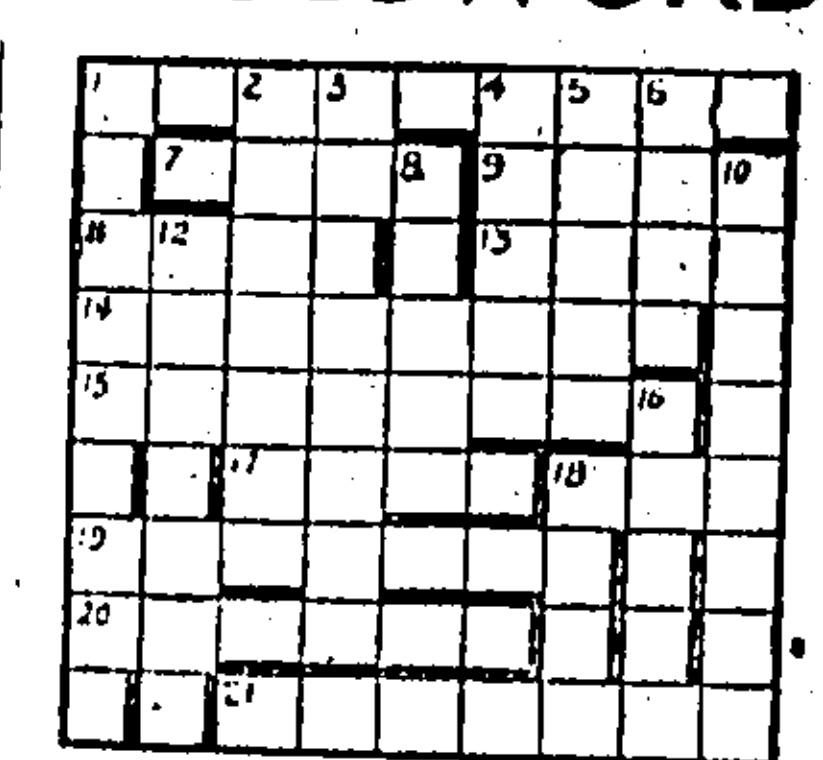
Well, that's about all the column can tell the royal commission about itself.

The R.C. might ask: "If you don't think the column's views have any effect on readers, why has it expressed them?" The answer is that it probably couldn't think of anything else at the time.

And if the R.C. wants to know if the column owns any shares in this newspaper or any other, the answer is No.

It has never owned any shares of any kind anywhere at any time. It has told you what it does with its money.

CROSSWORD



1. Open tape (anagram). (10)
2. Tins to the post. (4)
3. What you must do to the clue before you call it. (4)
4. Part of our ration. (4)
5. Take care to compete in it. (4)
6. Crossed. (6)
7. What makes a reindeer? (8)
8. Sole. (4)
9. The sound of the tin. (7)
10. Sea branch of the Mediterranean. (6)
11. Byre. (3, 4)
12. It provides the main lure. (6)
13. Not a short treatise or anything like it. (7)
14. Switch and go in. (5)
15. Well-known lie. (6)
16. What we are all waiting for. (6)
17. Ache for a change. (4)
18. The robber's reward. (5)
19. Put off. (5)
20. They are on the other side. (7)
21. Glycerine. (7)
22. The R.C. Draw. (4)
23. Solution of yesterday's puzzle. (Across)
24. Generator. (4)
25. Tins to the post. (4)
26. Tins to the post. (4)
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NANCY Nancy Makes It a Habit



By **Ernie Bushmiller**

When You Feel Tired and Restless

take **Elliotts Nerve and Brain Tonic**

On Sale at All Dispensaries

Women BEAUTY ARTS

This Space Every Day
By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Dorothy Lamour for Lois Leeds.
Learn to apply makeup step by step.

"DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—Please suggest a makeup for a coarse skin, large face, slightly red and skin a little oily.—MRS L."

Cleanse well, then go over the skin with a dampened pad of cotton. Then dip the cotton pad in skin lotion and go over the skin again. Blend on makeup lotion in a beige tone. Be sure that there is no pink cast. Stroke until perfectly blended, then blot dry with a cosmetic tissue. No rouge is necessary. Put and brush on face powder till you get a nice mat finish.

Now use a lipstick in a Rose-red shade. Brush the eyebrows and lashes. Use a touch of eyeshadow and stroke the eyelashes with mascara. Hair swept into a high coil, a deep "V" neckline would add to the charming picture.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Are long gloves, made of dress material, worn?—M. C."

Yes, and they are very smart! If you are clever at sewing you could make a pair from a pattern.

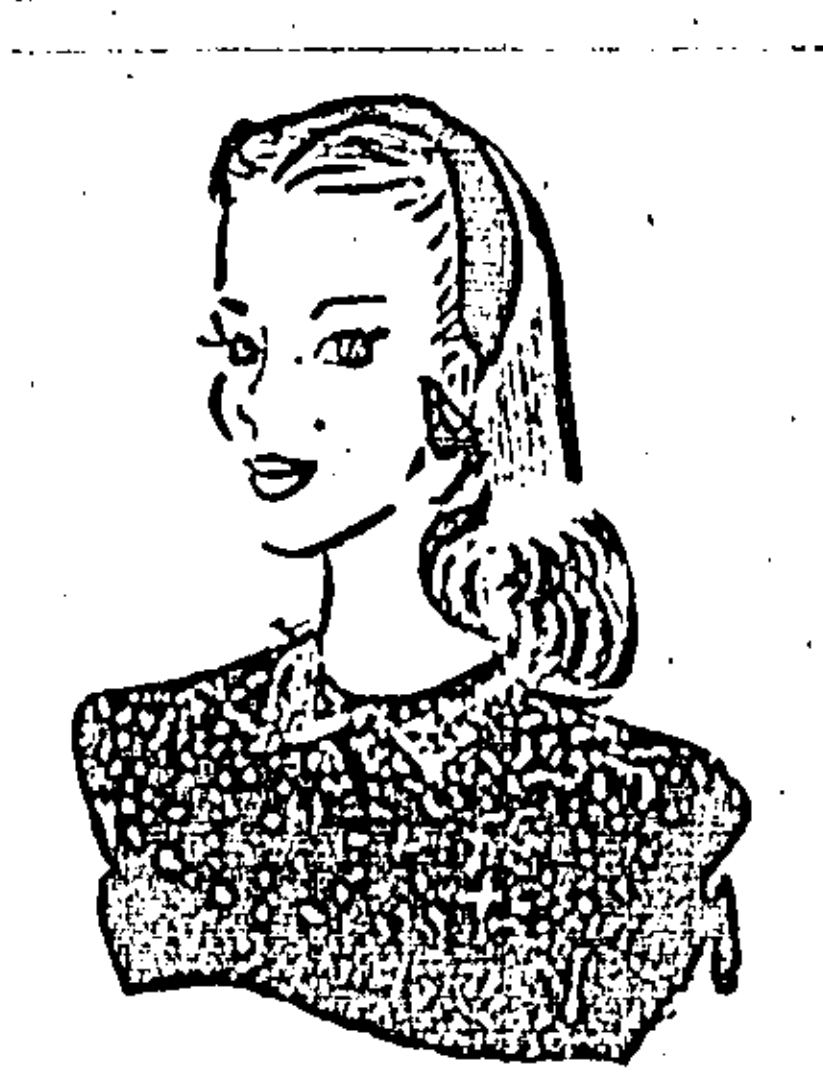
"Dear Lois Leeds—What will smooth dry, rough skin?—J. R." Proper diet and proper skin care. No soap and water for at least ten days. A light patting with 3 parts of cold cream and 2 parts of cosmetic oil. A cream mask treatment twice a week until you see results.

Minute Makeup by GABRIELLE



A mask treatment once a week keeps the skin in the best of health. Try to leave on for twenty minutes any mask that you use. Relax while it works. This is the next best thing to having a beauty treatment in a salon.

"Dear Lois Leeds—Please repeat the mask used in bleaching light freckles.—J. M." Here it is. Mix the white of one egg with the juice of one lemon. Blend in sufficient oatmeal or almond meal to make a thin paste. Apply to the face, arms, back; wherever your freckles gather. Leave on until dry. Rinse off with warm water.



NEW ANGLE

on white-collared frocks is this tiny collar, adorned with a white sequin, creating a delicate shadow and bodice. (Drawn by Virginia.)

Hair Rinses To Match Gowns

A new Institute of Hairdressing, just opened in London, promises to give an important lead to coiffure in Britain. It will enable them to go to London from all over the country to learn advanced hairdressing and have a refresher course. Mr. Charles Plumridge, the well-known hair-stylist, who started the Institute, has some firm views on what women want to do with their hair in these postwar years. He disagrees, for instance, with the suggestion that short hair has come back to stay. Women, on the contrary, will prefer longer hair, is his belief.

Most of the new styles at the Institute are dressed high, especially for evening. The backs are swathed and upswept. For daytime wear with hats the hair was dropped at the back and criss-cross on the neck. Even new colours are being introduced. It is possible today for a woman to bring a piece of her evening dress and have a rinse to match; the colour can be washed out in the morning.

SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"Girls will have to quit this arguing every morning—let John wear his own shirt for a change!"

Exile In Siberia For Soviet Atom Scientist

Russia's most brilliant atomic scientist, Dr Peter Kapitza, one-time professor at Cambridge University, has been exiled to Siberia, according to American Embassy sources in London.

A tragic story, not unlike Canada's atomic bomb treason trial, revolves around Kapitza's numerous international connections, which led the 53-year-old professor to continue a wide correspondence with scientists throughout the world until the time of his arrest.

This lifetime habit of exchanging ideas and information came under close surveillance after Kapitza was given charge of Soviet atomic research and, although he pleaded that his letters contained no reference to nuclear research, he was found guilty of "criminal negligence."

The American Embassy at Moscow, however, believes the Soviet will attempt to make him continue his work during his exile.

The sentence is not necessarily severe, merely cutting Kapitza off from international contacts.

In 1936 Kapitza surprised the world by leaving Cambridge University to journey to Moscow, where he lectured to the Academy of Science.

A former Czarist, he agreed to become a Russian citizen on the Soviet offering to equip a huge laboratory under his personal direction.

Lonely Old Man Dies Beside Wife

Unable to live without his wife, William Roberts, 56-year-old American musical genius, dressed himself in frayed finery when she died, then lay down beside her body and died of a broken heart or starvation.

The couple, who were once wealthy, lived in a 20-room mansion. They were poverty-stricken, but too proud to ask for help or to sell any of the priceless antiques with which the house was filled.

Police were summoned by neighbours when they heard the Roberts' dog whining.

The dog refused to let police enter the bedroom where the dead couple were lying, and police had to shoot it.

On a bed was the emaciated body of Mrs Roberts, who had not been outside the house for 20 years.

Beside her was her dead husband, faultlessly attired in frayed trousers, soft white shirt, flowing black tie, black frock coat and even a broad-brimmed hat.

Only Piano Dusted The couple, who had been dead about a fortnight, had lived in the one room for some time. Gas and electricity had been cut off for some years and they had cooked their food in an open fireplace.

The once stately mansion was filled with beautiful furniture, exquisite cut glass and silver, and a large musical library.

A grand piano was the only thing in the house that had been dusted regularly.

Throughout the house the plaster had crumbled from the walls and ceilings, and dust hung heavily on the tattered velvet and brocades.

MISERY FOR SUFFERERS OF ULCERS

There would be a tremendous reduction in human misery if someone discovered a permanent cure for stomach ulcers, or could say what causes them, said a leading Harley St specialist recently.

Gastric and duodenal ulcers cause only one per cent. of deaths, but when they recur or persist for years on end, they surely rank with major diseases as a source of misery and ill-health.

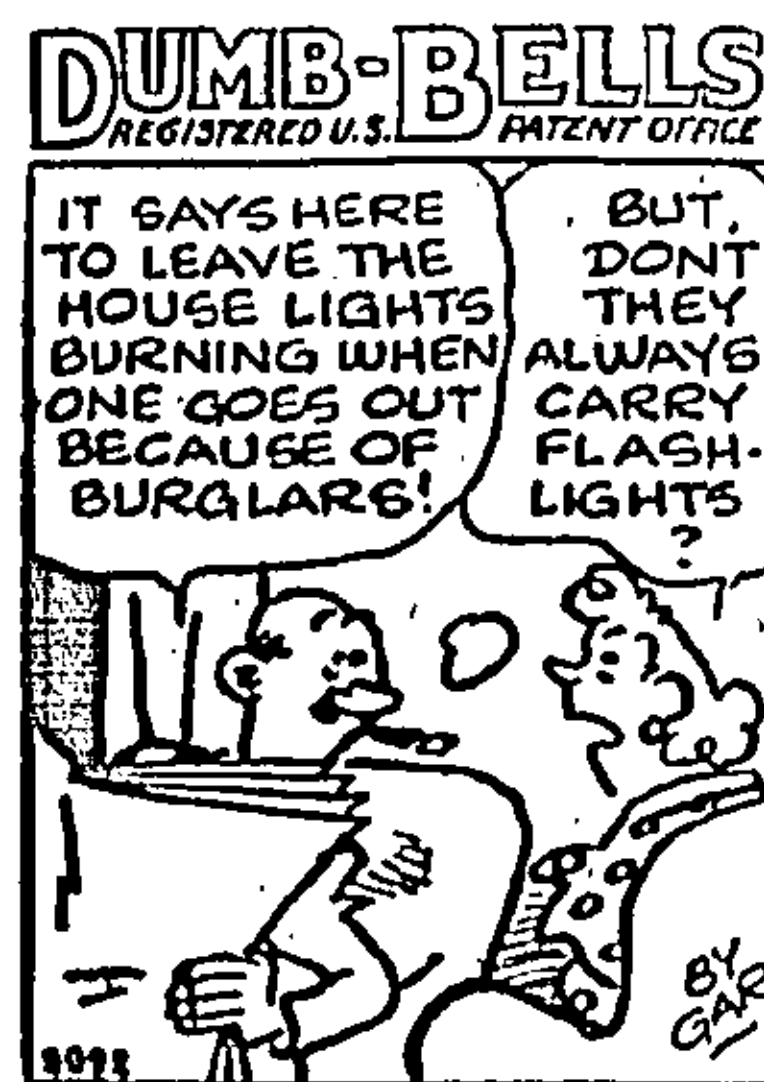
Actual formation of a stomach ulcer occurs in this way: The digestive juices attack weak spot in the stomach lining and simply digest, or partly digest, the wall of the stomach.

The spot then becomes raw, painful, and the presence of the digestive juices prevents it from healing up. What causes this? It can't be the acid in the stomach, as many believe, because everyone has acid, but not everyone has gastric ulcers, said the doctor.

Protective Substance Research in America suggests that there is a protective substance in the body which prevents the gastric juices from digesting the stomach, and that a lack of this leads to ulcers.

It is also known that ulcers cause more deaths among poor than the rich—stomach ulcers, that is. Duodenal ulcers, a stage further along in the digestive system, are commoner among higher social grades.

Other confusing data about ulcers: they run in families; they depend on the personality of the subject; they depend upon environment; they can sometimes be cured by removing a source of worry, said the specialist.



FRIENDLY BATTLE OF ATLANTIC

Britain is winning the peace-time Battle of the Atlantic—a bloodless, friendly battle between British and American steamship companies competing for passengers.

With the two "Queens," Britain has won the first round. America opens the fight with their new 26,000-ton liner, America.

With the Queen Elizabeth already carrying 2,200 passengers each trip, and the Queen Mary ready for sailings this month in the greatest passenger demand, British Cunard White-Star Lines can congratulate themselves.

The Americans, on the other hand, now realise their great mistake when, some years ago, they turned from building super-liners to the medium-sized ship.

The two main tendencies in Transatlantic liners are:

1. Medium sized, fairly conservatively designed ships, economical and suitable for any route.

2. Super-liners, modern, revolutionary, high speed, with a 2,000 to 2,500 passenger capacity, capable of attracting the wealthiest passengers. Britain unhesitatingly plumped for the second course; Americans, after their Leith experience, for the first. But now there is a third and, as yet, unplanned tendency.

Ship Of Future

The Transatlantic liner of the next decade may be of 30,000 tons. At present the United States Lines, owners of the America, are planning a 40,000-tonner, half the size of the "Queens." They want her to be faster than the Elizabeth. She will cost, it is thought, something like £12,500,000.

In the meantime, it is undoubtedly irritating to the Americans—not to say exceedingly unprofitable—that foreign ships should carry the majority of the million and a half who leave annually.

'Old Tom' Silent After Years

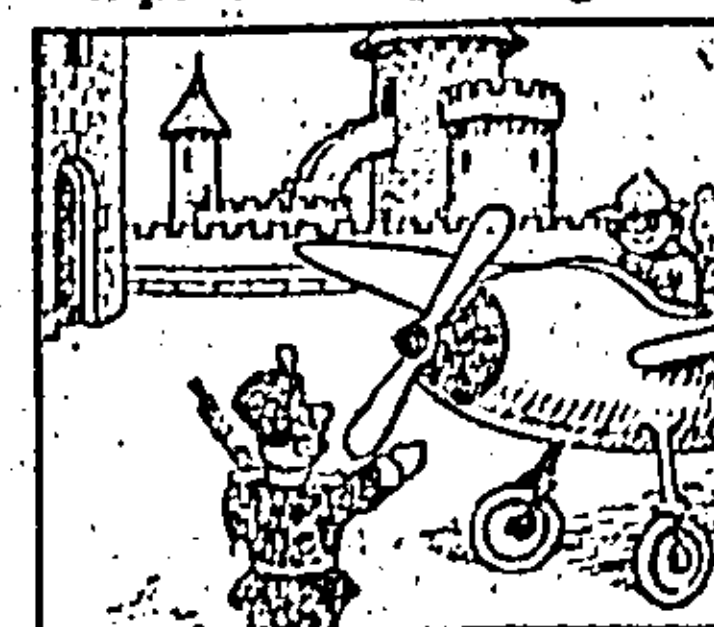
In the bustling country town of Amersham, Buckinghamshire, "Old Tom," 18th century bell in the Town Hall clock, will never again strike the hours. It is to be replaced by an electric clock with luminous dials.

The clock ceased to function properly after British troops, billeted in the Town Hall before embarking for the Normandy landings, climbed to the top of the tower one night and stopped it because "Old Tom" kept them awake at night.

All efforts by the local authorities to restart the clock failed, and when the clock was dismantled recently it was found that the parts could not be replaced.

Now "Old Tom" will be rung only to call out the Fire Brigade.

Rupert and Ninky—33



Skimming gracefully over the battlements of the Castle the small plane alights on a lofty courtyard and as once a Toy Soldier on guard comes marching up, "What do you mean by bringing people here, Toy Scout?" he demands. "You're supposed to bring toys, not visitors. Here are the orders of Santa Claus." The Scout helps Rupert out and smiles. "Don't worry," he says. "This is Rupert Bear and I've brought him here specially to see Santa Claus and we want to see him at once!" ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Rome.—A group of Rome black marketeers in food are to use the Rome City Council for suppressing their market because they say they have been paying the Council £20,000 a month in market licences.

DIGGEST EAST OF SUEZ

Bombay.—The biggest floating dock made East of Suez lies complete, though in halves, in Bombay harbour. Capable of docking ships of 50,000 tons displacement, the dock was made to the British Admiralty's order and cost over £1,000,000. It is a self-contained mid-sea repair unit—385 feet long, 172 feet broad, and contains 20,000 tons of steel—all made in India.

VISAS FOR JERRIES

Stockholm.—The Swedish authorities have granted visas to 1,500 German men, women and children to enter Sweden with permission to work and settle down there. Allied authorities in Germany are granting these people exit visas.

These people have to prove by means of a written statement by two reliable Swedes that they have not been Nazis and have done no military service in Denmark or Norway. Swedish public opinion is not entirely pleased with this move.

THEY SHARED A CELL

Paris.—A farm labourer and an air force sergeant shared a cell in Rochefort prison and wondered at 20th Century judicial logic. The farmer owed the sergeant some money and couldn't pay it so he offered his 14-year-old daughter in exchange. The deal was made, papers signed. She ran home and was taken back. Then she left the sergeant. The two approached the police to find her—and wound up in the cooler.

FATAL 100TH BIRTHDAY Toronto.—Drinking and smoking in moderation never harmed anyone, said William Henry Johnston on his 100th birthday. A few days later he died of burns caused when his mustache caught fire while lighting his pipe.

SOME CAN DO IT

New York.—Victor Sardi, once a dishwasher in London's Old Victoria Restaurant, is retiring as proprietor of Broadway's best known restaurant.

FELT A FOOL

Rome.—Pietro Gongiovanni, 17-year-old Rome student, was tired of an unsuccessful love affair, so decided on a dramatic suicide. At midnight in an old Roman temple he drew his knife to stab himself, fainted with fright and woke up in hospital. "I do feel a fool," he told doctors.

UNHAPPY ENDING

Johnsburg, Miss.—Barbara Evans of Durban was making wedding arrangements when she heard that her fiancé, George Owens, second in command of the City of Lincoln salvage operations off the Cape Coast, had been injured.

She caught a special train but half way to destination learned by wireless that Owens had died in an explosion aboard the stricken liner. Miss Evans flew over the wreck later, and scattered the ashes of her fiancé, who was cremated.

BIZARRE INCIDENT

Rome.—Emilia Monforte, 55, recently dismissed from a mental home, has been playing the piano, reading French novels, cooking, washing, ironing and shining the shoes of her 37-year-old brother, Manlio, who has been dead in the house for 24 days. A friend discovered the death and reported to the police. They had to smash the door as Emilia refused to open it, shouting: "Leave me alone with a big toy I have wanted since I was a child."

CHOO CHOO MOVIES

Washington.—An express train which runs daily between Washington and Cincinnati will show films, some of them British, twice nightly free of charge.

DEATH SHIP

Calcutta.—Sometime in October the world's first death ship sailed from Calcutta. It was a specially constructed American transport which carried the remains of some 4,000 American soldiers and airmen who died in SEAC fighting.

LEAD POISONING

Nuremberg.—In the desperate days of September 1944, after the fall of Paris, German scientists were ordered to produce effective poison bullets. They designed one and tried it out on concentration camp prisoners.

The bullets were of 7.65 calibre and filled with crystals of acetyl nitrate. Having been made to lie down, five men were shot in the upper part of the left thigh. No effects of poison being observed, two were relieved.

With the other three, motor agitation set in and foaming saliva flowed so quickly swallowing could not cope with it. They died eventually.

WENT BERSERK

Sofia.—A flour mill owner at Assenovgrad, killed six in an excess of madness after being unable to take possession of his mill from the tenants because of an unfavourable court decision. Single-handed he resisted 20 workers until armed militia arrived.

Not Worried With 300 Spare Rooms

The housing shortage does not bother Harry Platt of Toronto. For the last five years, he and his wife have lived in a "house" with 300 spare rooms.

Their home is an old, dilapidated passenger steamer, which has lain at Dead End anchorage in Toronto harbour for nine years.

"Flat" works at home, too. He is the watchman of the big, four-deck, sidewheel boat.—Associated Press.

TO-DAY ONLY **KINGS** At 2.30, 5.10, 7.15 & 9.15 p.m.

LANA **TURNER-GARFIELD** JOHN
The Postman Always Rings Twice
THEY KILLED TO BE TOGETHER!
Mile-A-Minute Action with Two Great Romantic Stars
TO-MORROW: BY POPULAR REQUEST
M-G-M'S BIG TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL! ESTHER WILLIAMS • VAN JOHNSON in
"THRILL OF A ROMANCE"
LEE THEATRE
TOWN BOOKING OFFICE
W. HAKING & CO. ALEXANDRIA BLDG. GR. FL.
BETWEEN 11.00 A.M. AND 5.00 P.M. DAILY
HELD OVER!
LAST FOUR SHOWS TO-DAY AT 2.30, 5.00, 7.10 & 9.15 P.M.

BETTE DAVIS *FROM THE BOOK-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB'S BOOK-OF-DOORS*
"MR. SKEFFINGTON" CLAUDE RAINS
SCREENED BY PHILIP G. EDWARDS FROM A STORY BY ELIZABETH M. MUSIC BY FRANK WATSON
TO-MORROW
"REUNITED ROMANCE"
CANTONESE DIALOGUE PICTURE
In Technicolor
PHOTOGRAPHED & PRODUCED BY GRANDVIEW STUDIO IN U.S.A.

TO-DAY ONLY **MAJESTIC** At 2.30, 5.20, 7.20 & 9.20 p.m.
GORGEOUS SPECTACLE! SONG HITS! FUN!
Red SKELTON • Eleanor POWELL
in
"I DOOD IT"
A Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Picture
TO-MORROW: DON AMECHE • JANET BLAIR
in "SOMETHING TO SHOUT ABOUT"

ORIENTAL
SHOWING TO-DAY: 2.30—5.15—7.15—9.15 P.M.
THE THRILL OF A LIFETIME . . . FROM A LIFETIME OF THRILLS! Their love songs . . . their laughter, their heart-warming, eye-thrilling story . . . weaving the spell of the screen's most lovable musical!

MARIA MONTEZ SUSANNA FOSTER
JACK OAKIE TURIAN BEY
BOWERY TO BROADWAY

Streptomycin Production
Appeals are from time to time made by hospital authorities and doctors in Britain for supplies of streptomycin for the treatment of patients who are dangerously ill. This drug is not yet generally available for treatment in Britain, though it is obtainable in limited quantities in America.
Clinical trials are being carried out in Britain by the Medical Research Council, and until these trials are completed it is not possible to assess the value claimed for the drug and to determine the best methods of its use.
The Ministry of Health emphasized that streptomycin is potentially dangerous and may cause serious ill effects in the patient, including permanent blindness and deafness, and that insufficient is known about
WARNING FROM HUSBAND OF 83
Don't take your wife an early morning cup of tea in bed or you may wreck your marriage.
That is the advice given by 83-year-old George Newnham on his diamond wedding anniversary in Melbourne.
"Tea in bed only encourages young wives to be lazy and possessive," he says.
"Of course, later in life wives deserve morning tea," he added.
Mr Newnham admitted that he had been taking a cup of tea to his wife every morning for at least 20 years but he said he knew when to start.
This drug at present is justly action to make it more freely available. Steps are being taken to accelerate production in Britain so that supplies may be available if the clinical trials prove favourable.

Condemned Man Is Divorced

London, Feb. 12. Walter Graham Rowland, 38-year-old convicted murderer heard yesterday that his appeal against the second death sentence passed on him had been dismissed.

With the dismissal came the revelation that his wife had been granted a divorce in December which had been kept secret so that the murder trial jury might not be prejudiced.

Rowland was sent to Borsini in 1927 for the attempted murder by strangling of a 16-year-old girl, Ann Schofield.

On his release he married, and after his wife's death remarried. His second wife was the girl he had once tried to kill, Ann Schofield.

In 1934 Rowland strangled his two-year-old baby daughter and was sentenced to death, though he consistently pleaded his innocence. This sentence was commuted to one of life imprisonment but he served only six years before being released to join the army in 1940.

Again Protested Innocence. Rowland was sentenced to death again in January for the murder of a 40-year-old woman on a boat in the Manchester. Again he protested his innocence.

It was while this trial was pending that his wife claimed and was granted a divorce on the grounds of cruelty.

The condemned man had based his appeal on a "confession" said to have been made by a fellow prisoner who is stated to have admitted the killing, and on Monday when he heard the Lord Chief Justice dismiss his appeal Rowland shouted, as he had done so often before, "I am an innocent man." It is now considered likely that his solicitor will ask for leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

David John Ware, a clerk who is serving a sentence for theft, may not be called on to give the "confession" which the authorities, it is stated, believe is false.—Associated Press.

REDS ATTACK PEIPING GATE

Peiping, Feb. 12. Government military leaders held an emergency conference in the wake of the Chinese Communists' raid on the east gate of Peiping.

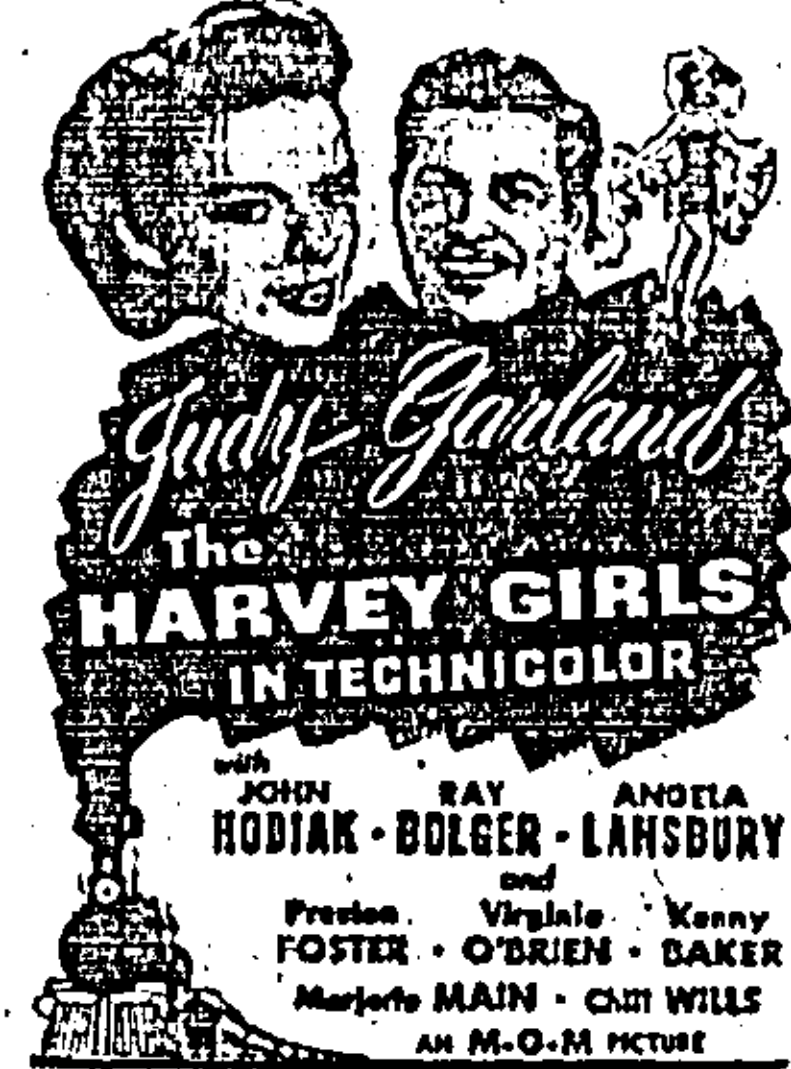
Chinese newspapers reported the attackers fired several buildings, killed 200 persons and freed 98 prisoners from a Government jail.

The few hundred defenders around the east gate where the attack was centred called for an armoured train to repel the hit and run assault.

One report said the Communists smashed through the east gate, another said some scaled the wall. Buildings reported to be set afire were a district government building, housing a jail, a police station, a railroad depot, a water supply office, an army hospital and a military building.—Associated Press.

COMING TO THE KING'S

M-G-M's WILD-WEST MUSICAL



WATCH FOR THE OPENING DATE

THE BIRDS OF HONGKONG
Field Identification and Field Note Book by G. A. C. Harklotts
NOW ON SALE \$7.50
South China Morning Post and Kelly & Walsh, Ltd.

THE PARKERS



Europe In Grip Of Icy Weather

London, Feb. 11. In many parts of Europe ice, snow and bitterly low temperatures have dislocated transport, held up food supplies and clogged the wheels of industry. Reuter despatches from continental centres said to-night.

The freeze-up of German inland waterways has deprived Hamburg of coal supplies. With stocks available to last only two and a half days, the city's electric power works has introduced an emergency programme by which current is to be switched off except for a short period during the day.

Forty-four persons died from frost-bite in Hamburg between January 1 and February 4, while 152 persons suffering from frost-bite were admitted to hospital, the British Control Commission announced to-day.

The American-controlled port of Bremen is clogged by nearly 150,000 tons of wheat and flour products which cannot be forwarded because of traffic dislocation, the German news service in the United States Zone reported.

The agency also reported that planes will drop bombs on the ice which has formed on the Rhine over a five kilometre stretch near the Lorelei Rock.

It is feared that when the thaw comes, the temporary Rhine bridges will be carried away by floods. In northern Italy, have smashed the main bridge over the river at Piacenza.

At Scheveningen, Holland, the crew of a Dutch trawler reported having had to back their ship free from the ice before they could return to port.

Extraordinary cold was reported throughout Norway, in a message from Oslo. Sixty-six degrees of frost was registered at Engerdal. Frost, together with labour shortage for woodcutting and transport, has caused difficulty in maintaining supplies of fuel.—Reuter.

CURRENCY SLUMP

CHIANG SEEKS MORE REFUGEES FOR AUSTRALIA

Shanghai, Feb. 12. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek asked his leading financial and economic advisers for suggestions to end the nation's financial debacle.

For the third straight day the Chinese national currency dropped at record speed, losing as much as 2,000 points in a single hour in relation to the US dollar.

The Chinese dollar plunged to 19,000 to one US dollar on the black-market—a one day drop of 4,500 points.

From Canton to Peiping the price of rice soared.

Hoarders cleaned out stocks in many shops in Shanghai. In many cities merchants withdrew their stocks rather than sell for the cheapening currency.—Associated Press.

Washington, Feb. 12. The United States government expressed growing concern to-day over China's deepening economic crisis, most prominently evidenced at present by the nation's sagging currency.

Through a States department spokesman, the government said it was following developments in China most closely and was receiving constant information therefrom from the Embassy at Nanking and the Consulate-General at Shanghai but declined to disclose the nature of these advices.—Associated Press.

Byrd's Rapid Progress Through Ice Barrier

Aboard Icebreaker North Wind, Feb. 11. Over 1,000 members of the U.S. Navy's Antarctic party crowded the decks of the five vessels evacuating them from Little America to-day and watched the conquest of Ross Ice Barrier.

Rear Admiral Gruzen was elated over the rapid progress of the convoy. He said the shepherding of the two icebreakers—originally only one was expected—may make it possible for the party to reach Scott Island on Monday, two days ahead of schedule.

With the approach of the Antarctic winter, icebergs of all sizes drifted north from the Polar continent and past from Scott Island bank to meet in an area where the Great Barrier is formed.

Already a gigantic ice sheet has coiled the waters and has joined those frozen masses into an historic barrier that will become increasingly formidable as the southern winter advances.

Etna Activity Causes Panic Among Villagers

Catania, Feb. 11. A wave of panic swept small villages on the slopes of Mount Etna to-day when the loftiest volcano in Europe showed renewed signs of activity. Masses of molten lava and ashes were hurled high in the air from the volcano, illuminating the truncated central cone of Etna which has been silent since 1917.

Although the observation station advised that there was no danger, the terror-stricken inhabitants of the village of Nicolosi marched in a supplicatory procession to the outskirts of the village reaching the locality of Altarelli where they prayed in a chapel.—United Press.

Mark Clark Lectures Gusev On Freedom

London, Feb. 11. Plain-spoken General Mark Clark to-day bluntly informed the Soviet deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Peodor Gusev, that the United States would not agree to any clause in the proposed Austrian peace treaty which would give the Soviet Union, or any other nation, excuse to interfere in Austria's internal affairs.

In a sizzling session at unheated Lancaster House, Gen. Clark lectured Mr. Gusev on American principles concerning freedom of speech and press, and the usually smiling Gusev also lost his temper.

"We stopped just short of shooting at each other," one of Gen. Clark's aides said.

The row started when Mr. Gusev attempted to insert a clause banning "pan-Germanic propaganda of any nature" into the section forbidding Austria ever again to seek an Anschluss with Germany.

Mr. Gusev, while insisting the treaty must ban pan-Germanic propaganda, "whether aimed at an Anschluss or not," said he resented Gen. Clark's inference that the Soviet would interfere in Austria's internal affairs.

Gen. Clark snapped back that he only knew what he had seen during his 18 months as member of the Allied Control Council in Vienna.

Soviet Extremes. American sources here said the Soviet had used an early Council ruling against pan-Germanic propaganda in a repeated effort to suppress newspapers which "made any reference to Germany which was not derogatory."

Sources close to Gen. Clark said he feared Soviet interpretation of the proposed clause might conceivably go so far as to include speaking German, playing German music or presentation of German operas.

They said the Soviet member of the Control Council once attempted to persuade a newspaper for an article which stated: "Austria retains some of Germany's best cultural heritage."

Prohibition of the Anschluss was agreed upon in principle, with the United States agreeing to the French and British proposals thereon, which provided exclusion of pan-Germanic activities. The deputies also agreed on the human rights clause.—United Press.

CORRESPONDENCE

CUSTODIAN OF PROPERTY CHARGES

(The Editor, H.K. Telegraph)

Sir,—In these days of democratic autocracy it is gratifying to find a public champion of (1947) causes.

With reference to your leader in Saturday's issue of the Telegraph concerning Custodian furniture, the least I can say is that it was timely.

I had thought that we (the buyers at pistol point) had been left to the mercy of a rapacious government.

I am one of the fortunate, unfortunate or unfortunate fortunate, whichever you will, who is in possession of so-called Enemy property (though it is more likely to be that of some of my pals who were interned either at Shamsulpo or Stanley and who in turn, probably, have been asked to buy some of what was mine) and the pre-war valuation of that furniture, was, in principle, fair enough (even though it did mean paying again for what we paid for already).

However, for government now to increase that valuation 50% for the purposes of purchase is grossly unfair. There are those I know, who neither fought for Hongkong nor suffered internment; who lost little if anything and who, I strongly submit, were not entitled to the amenities of Custodian furniture; yet then there are those like myself who spent three years and eight months in Shamsulpo while the Japs took all we had. It is on the latter majority (it pleases me to think that, perhaps, we are a majority) that the imposition falls.

It is almost Hitlerism to say—Take it or leave it, and it completely begs the question to argue that the furniture cannot be bought on the open market at the same prices to-day.—We know that, and that is why we ourselves the "buyers at pistol point."

If the proceeds are to be credited to the Japanese Reparations bill, why are we, of all people, forced to inflate that credit?

Or am I wrong? Do we owe the Japs something or do they owe us? Perhaps the loss of several of my friends and everything I possessed was my fault?

I don't know what other valuations were, but I do know that the stuff (it's nothing more) I've got could have been bought pre-war for two-thirds of what is being asked—make the 50% increase.

Bullets have stopped flying, but By Golly! the war's still on.

EQUITY.

DEVELOPMENT GRANT FOR NORTH BORNEO

Singapore, Feb. 11.

The Governor-Designate of North Borneo, Mr. Edward Twining, who will leave Singapore to-morrow for Jesselton to take up his new post, disclosed to-day that the Colonial Welfare Development Fund had allocated \$650,000, for rehabilitation work on the island which was devastated during the war.

Mr. Twining said that there was no opposition by the Chartered Company of North Borneo, former administrators of the territory, to annexation by Britain and it had been agreed to leave the question of compensation to arbitration by Lord Justice Uthwatt of the Court of Appeal.

Mr. Twining will sail to-morrow in the H.M.S. Opossum for his installation ceremony, which will be held in Jesselton on Saturday.

British North Borneo, administered by the chartered company of that name for 64 years, was ceded to the British Empire on July 15, 1946.—Reuter.

PARIS PRESS STRIKE OFF

Paris, Feb. 11.

The National Journalists' Union to-day announced that the strike, which lasted two hours among Paris newspapers and the Agence France Presse news agency, had been called off.

According to the announcement, the publishers agreed to increase the editorial pay by 12½ percent.

Despite the Union announcement, all Paris afternoon newspaper buildings were still picketed and it was understood that other parts of the staff, except for the typographical workers, were seeking a 15 percent boost.

Press hands struck for more pay last month, depriving Paris of newspapers for eight days.—United Press.

JEWS REJECT PLAN

(Continued from Page 1)

launched into a secret area of the harbor as a route measure, in guaranteeing the harbour's safety.

The authorities did not expect any major trouble until the death sentences on three Irgun Zvai Leumi extremists were confirmed and the position of the Irgunists, Dov Gruner, was cleared up.

The Irgunists were scheduled to broadcast for their secret station to-morrow night.

Six persons were detained to-day out of 123 screened at Tel-Aviv during the police search of hotels, cafes and cinemas. Outside of progressive restrictions on traffic and communications throughout Palestine, no new precautions have been taken since the past 24 hours.

Officials denied that the military judges who sentenced the three Irgunists to death yesterday were being heavily guarded against possible retaliatory action.—United Press.

EVACUATION QUERIES

London, Feb. 11.

Lord Hall (formerly Mr. George Hall, Colonial Secretary) gave the following replies in the House of Lords to a series of questions by the Labour peer, Lord Sorely, on the evacuation of British women and children from Palestine:

No entry permits for Palestine will be granted to British subjects without reference to the Palestine authorities. In the present situation only urgent and important cases are being referred.—Reuter.

PLANE HELD UP

New York, Feb. 11.

Trans-New York Airlines officials said to-day that the plane in which Mrs. Helen Friedman, sister of Dr. Gruher, Jewish terrorist, under sentence of death in Jerusalem, was on her way to Palestine had been delayed at Gander, Newfoundland, by mechanical trouble.

Mrs. Friedman, before leaving the LaGuardia Airport, New York, yesterday said that she hoped to see General Sir Alan Cunningham, leading military Commissioner, and leading military authorities as soon as she arrived in Palestine.

"My trip is only for my brother's sake," she added. "There is no other reason for my going."—Reuter.

Stalin Elected

London, Feb. 11.

Generalissimo Stalin was elected unanimously in all districts where he stood as candidate for election to the Supreme Soviet Republics of the Soviet Union on Sunday, the Moscow Radio reported to-day.—Reuter.

American Trade With Russia Expanding

Washington, Feb. 11. Development of United States economic relations with Soviet Russia will be a most significant aspect of world economy in 1947, according to the opinion of some high authorities here.

United States foreign commerce, credit and political relations will all be largely influenced by the course of economic events between Washington and Moscow.

At least four phases of United States-USSR economy will be determined in 1947:

Firstly, the United States committee for reciprocity will hold hearings on commodities involved in the proposed reciprocity agreement negotiations with 18 countries, including Soviet Russia. The United States does not at present have a reciprocity agreement with the USSR, but has a general commercial agreement dated August 4, 1941, by which Soviet Russia gets a most-favoured-nation treatment on tariff cuts accorded to other countries.

Many commodities involved in the public hearings will have a bearing on Soviet-American trade, especially furs, manganese, fisheries products and flax. Russian tariffs affecting United States commodities are still on a 1939 basis.

Secondly, the United States programme for negotiation of the 18 treaties affecting almost every category of United States tariff is pre-emptive to the attempted organization of an international trade organization, whereof the ultimate success may require Soviet Russian participation.

Thirdly, Soviet Russia's ultimate intentions concerning the Bretton Woods monetary and exchange programmes are yet unknown, here, USSR's decisions in the coming year will largely determine whether the world can anticipate a "global economy" with international co-operation comparable to that made possible by the "global war" concept of former years, or alternatively will resolve itself into economic camps with conflicting economic policies.

Fourthly, the United States is studying further steps to improve business relations with Soviet Russia on purely commercial lines, as for example, better facilities for contact between buyers and sellers, more effective exchange of commercial information, and opportunities for economists' conferences.

Current interest in these topics is accentuated by the fact that United States imports from Soviet Russia in 1946 totalled four times more than any year since the Russian revolution and they face the possibility of expansion. The United States export position vis-a-vis Soviet Russia is not yet clear statistically, because lend-lease deliveries and UNRRA shipments were large factors in the 1946 figures. Informed circles presume that Soviet Russia has an extraordinary need and desire for United States manufacturers and other commodities which would become operative if some credit arrangement is found.

United States imports of Russian commodities during last year were on a contract basis. Some large American purchases were manganese as valued at \$11,000,000, palladium, platinum and iridium valued at about \$9,000,000, chrome as valued at \$3,700,000, and varieties of potash valued at \$3,500,000. Imports of furs in the first half of the year were valued at over \$41,000,000.

Lend-Lease Goods. The United States has not published trade figures for the entire year, but during the first half of 1946 exports to USSR were valued at \$223,430,000 and imports \$58,000,000. Nearly half of the United States exports were lend-lease reimbursable exports. Statistics for the entire year when available are expected to double the first half year.

There is wide speculation on the attitude of the Republican-controlled Congress toward United States-Soviet Russian relations. Although there is definite hostility to Communistic activity within the United States, some Republicans will look favourably upon expanding commerce with Soviet Russia if ideological ramifications can be avoided. United States-Russian trade flourished during the years of Republican presidential administrations, despite non-recognition of Russia.

With the apparent tendency for United States industrial production to overtake domestic consumption, Republicans must watch the export situation.—United Press.

H. K. Forestry Scheme

(Continued from Page 1)

made by the Japanese for the provision of firewood.

This area will, in future, be the centre of forestry field experimental work.

The Fanning area has always been well forested. In 1940 and 1941 large scale fellings were carried out to provide a supply of firewood for the colony in an emergency, but the areas cleared were replanted and inspection at the end of 1945 showed that in spite of complete neglect, some of the plantations were satisfactorily established.

However, the golf course area, which had been used as a military zone throughout the Japanese occupation was finally completely denuded of its growing stock to provide fuel for the colony during 1946. Protection and reforestation of this area must be undertaken for amenity reasons.

Referring to other areas in the New Territories, the official said that some of them are so remote as to make afforestation difficult from the point of view of protection, especially against deliberate firing.

He added that education of the villagers in these matters is badly needed.

BIGGEST PROBLEM

Referring to the history of afforestation in Hongkong, the official said that the chief problem had been the high cost of protection, and for this reason he doubted whether forestry here could ever be a paying proposition financially.

Illicit tree cutting and deliberate firing had always been a serious hindrance to afforestation.

In 1938 a protection system was introduced, but it was only partially successful. It did, however, manage to check forest depredations.

Method of operation was the setting up of outposts of forest guards at various points of vantage throughout the colony. Only the more serious cases of apprehension were taken to court (and they averaged nearly 200 a month), the minor offenders having their gleanings confiscated, thereby making their whole day's work a waste of time, leaving them relatively worse off than before they were set faced with this prospect only the more desperate thought it worth while to take the chance.

Truman's Budget Slashed

Washington, Feb. 12.

A \$50,000,000 cut in President Truman's \$347,000,000 budget was voted by the Senate and House budgetary subcommittee to-day.

A bitter wrangle over the question whether such a slash would impair the nation's defence preceded the vote.—Associated Press.

OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, Registered Airline and Parcel Posts close 30 minutes earlier than the times shown.

Wednesday, February 12
Airmail: Hongkong, Calcutta, Delhi, Johannesburg, Cairo, 3.30 p.m.
Steamship: 3.30 p.m.
Bangkok, 2 p.m.
Straits, 2 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.
Shanghai, 4 p.m.

Thursday, February 13
Airmail: Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin, Peiping, 3.30 p.m.
Bangkok, 2 p.m.
Straits, 2 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.

Friday, February 14
Airmail: Hongkong, Calcutta, Karachi, Bombay, 3.30 p.m.
Bangkok, 2 p.m.
Straits, 2 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.

Saturday, February 15
Airmail: Hongkong, Calcutta, Karachi, Bombay, 3.30 p.m.
Bangkok, 2 p.m.
Straits, 2 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.

Sunday, February 16
Airmail: Hongkong, Calcutta, Karachi, Bombay, 3.30 p.m.
Bangkok, 2 p.m.
Straits, 2 p.m.
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi, 3 p.m.
Kobe, 4 p.m.
Canton, 4 p.m.

TO-DAY'S BROADCASTS

2.30 p.m. on 945 kc and from 12.30-1.15 p.m. on 9.55, 6.30-7.30 p.m. and 8-11 p.m. on 9.55

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